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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 DJIBOUTI 000018

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR DS/DSS/IP, DS/IP/AF, DS/IP/ITA, DS/DSS/OSAC  
ADDIS FOR RSO AND ESO  
NAIROBI FOR ESO  
PRETORIA FOR ESC

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [KSEO](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI: 4TH QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT - OCT, NOV,  
DEC 2003

REF: 03 STATE 49137

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1. Summary of Significant Events  
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A. Narrative Overview of Significant Events

1. (U) RSO continues to manage a very intensive portfolio with little to no assistance. As the mission continues to expand the need for security services increases, but the security section remains the same. Post has gone from 8 direct hire Americans to a current staff of 15 with 7 long term TDYers and a projected staff of 20 by the spring of 2004, all of which need security services in one form or another.

2. (U) From 10/19 to 10/27, RSO participated in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference located in Philadelphia. RSO accompanied the chief of the Djibouti National Police Force, as one of 6 personal invitees of Ambassador Taylor.

In addition to the IACP conference, RSO participated in several visits to Post:

- 10/12 to 10/14 Visit of AF/EX PMO Ray Maxwell
- 10/29 to 11/03 - STS Jack McKenna to repair technical security equipment. Post continues to suffer from technical malfunctions of its Lock & Leave systems. RSO is working closely with SEO Addis to address technical issues as they arise.
- 11/02 - Visit of USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios
- 11/04 - Visit of ORA RMO Dr. Allen Ries
- 11/14 to 11/19 - DS/MSD/MTT Training Visit
- 11/28 to 12/02 - DS/FSE/FSB X-Ray team
- 11/30 to 12/03 - FSI Instructor Michael Braxton; Crisis Management Exercise
- 12/07 to 12/13 - Phillip Carter; Deputy Director East African Affairs
- 12/07 to 12/16 - Terrorist Interdiction Program assessment team

3. (U) RSO has not received any reports of attacks on Americans during this quarter. As reported before, RSO and embassy personnel continue to monitor crime trends and RSO continues to work closely with host nation police to ensure the safety of all personnel. Reports of petty theft, fraud, assault, battery, sexual deviation, and unlawful trade continue to be reported informally, but host nation police forces continue to report that crime is decreasing.

4. (U) RSO is working closely with DS/ATA in coordinating law enforcement training for local security personnel. One ATA course was successfully completed and 2 more courses were offered during the 4th quarter.

5. (U) RSO supported the visit of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Richard Myers and several other sub CINC visits of military personnel during this quarter. RSO continues to work closely with and support Other agencies at post to coordinate visits and security Briefings.

B. Mission Wide Emergency Action Drills:

1. Chancery:

- (a) Bomb Drill - 30 June 2003
- (b) Fire Drill - 11 November 2003
- (c) Emergency Destruction Drill - Unable to accomplish
- (d) D&C Drill - 27 August 2003
- (e) Crisis Mgmt Ex - 01 December 2003

2. Constituent posts: Not applicable.

3. MSG activities: Not applicable.

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12. Threats and incidents:

1A. (SBU) Post has Convened the EAC 1 time during the quarter in response to threat information and other agencies at post have submitted numerous threat related reports back to their head Quarters. Post continues to be rated as critical for trans-national terrorism. RSO continues to work closely with Host nation security to monitor activity and strengthen the physical security measures surrounding the embassy in response to that activity. Post received an additional 130,000.00USD at the end of the fiscal year to supplement the physical security of the perimeter. RSO is working closely with GSO to acquire the materials and implement the countermeasures as fast as possible.

1B. Constituent posts: Not applicable

13. DS initiated investigations:

Number of cases generated by headquarters offices:

	opened	closed	pending	overdue
1. PSS	(7)	(9)	(0)	(0)
2. VF	(1)	(0)	(1)	(0)
3. PF	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
4. CIL	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
5. PR	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
6. CI	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
7. PII	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)

Number of cases generated by post:

1. Post FSN/PSC	(5)	(0)	(16)	(0)
2. Other Agency RFAS	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
3. Host Govt RFAS	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
4. RSO Criminal	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)

14. Action cables/e-mails not answered by DS:

22 Dec 03 and previous emails With OBO/PE/SM/TSB - Overdue replacement of cracked laminate for CAC. Efforts have been made to replace this laminate for almost a year now with no results.

03 Djibouti 988 - Reactivation of an MSG Det. Post has yet to officially hear from the Department on this matter, which was submitted in May 2003.

15. Summary of separate reports:

1A. CIWG report: 01/05/04 - 04 Djibouti 00010

1B. Emergency action plans: completed and distributed by DS on 12/19/2001 via 02 State 217606. Next full revision of the EAP is due 06/05. An update of the EAP will be conducted in early 2004.

1C. Security surveys:  
Chancery - 02 March 2003  
Warehouse - 02 March 2003  
EMR - 02 March 2003

1D. Procedural security survey: 01/12/03

1E. Comprehensive SPE inventory: 01/30/03

1F. RSO quarterly travel report: none.

1G. DSS overseas firearms qualification policy: RSO re-qualified 15 November 2003 during the MTT visit (03 Djibouti 2140).

1H. Annual Crime Evaluation Questionnaire and OSAC Crime/Safety report: There have been no significant changes in the crime posture of Djibouti since last years report.

1I. ACEQ -

1. (SBU) Crime Mobility - response (c).

Comments: Although criminals have easy access to embassy residential areas, there have been no reports of theft, burglary or other crimes against Americans in the past six months. The 24hr local guard coverage is acting as an excellent deterrent.

2. (SBU) Crime Ambience - response (b).

Comments: Due to the proximity of the high crime port area, just 1 mile from the embassy residential area, the potential

for criminal activity especially at night still exists. Physical security measures coupled with 24hr guard coverage has helped deter would be burglars. Post has acquired new housing within an area of the city that is farther away from the upper scale district of Heron. Not enough time has passed to adequately survey the impact of criminal activity towards these residences. Should criminal activity begin to surface in this area RSO will report accordingly.

13. (U) Aggressiveness of Criminals - response (b).

Comments: Due to the habitual use of the amphetamine Khat, by the majority of the male populace, the potential for aggressive behavior on behalf of the criminal could be exhibited, but no reports have been submitted that document such behavior.

14. (U) Arming of Criminals - response (b).

Comments: Violent crimes involving firearms are rare, but the presence of firearms is becoming more prevalent due to the porous borders between Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Knives and sharp objects seem to be the weapon of choice for the would be assailant.

15. (U) Aggregation of Criminals - response (b).

Comments: Criminals generally aggregate by ethnic affiliation, clanship or tribalism. Incidents in the past indicate that victims are spared gratuitous violence if they comply with the perpetrators.

16. (SBU) Deterrence/Response of Police - response (c).

Comments: The national police force is under trained, under resourced and under paid. They lack sufficient and adequate equipment and do not have the budget, experience or knowledge to effectively combat crime. The local criminal sees this and is not deterred by the presence or actions of the police. Embassy officers rely on the RSO and LGF to respond to any incident that may occur at their residences.

17. (SBU) Training/Professionalism of Police - response (d).

Comments: It has been three years since the attempted, but failed, coup was carried out against the current president. The police forces have appeared to bounce back and are in the daily process of carrying out their duties. RSO works closely with senior level police on a weekly basis and believes that a concerted effort to change the past is being made. The lower levels of police officers still suffer from low salaries, virtually no benefits, poor equipment and inadequate training. In FY-03, DS/ATA provided the government of Djibouti with a series of courses that are designed to enhance the law enforcement capabilities of their security services. The ATA program continues to evolve for Djibouti in FY-04.

J. OSAC/CSR -

11. (U) Overall crime and safety situation: the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security rates Djibouti as a high crime threat post. Endemic poverty, widespread unemployment and a growing refugee population have led to an increase in criminal activity over the past several years. Most reported incidents are crimes of opportunity for immediate gain such as pick-pocketing and petty theft. Violent crimes committed at knifepoint, are also reported but not common. There have been burglary attempts against expatriate residences, but perpetrators generally lack the sophistication required to overcome home alarm systems and security guards. The large number of unemployed males loitering downtown and in other areas frequented by expatriates allows criminals to roam undetected. The port, bus terminal and downtown areas of Djibouti are considered at greatest risk for street crime. Criminal activity is exacerbated by the widespread abuse of Khat, an amphetamine that tends to increase aggressiveness among users.

12. (U) Political violence: The government and community leaders have stated publicly their strong support for the U.S. and coalition efforts in the Global War on Terrorism and. Although anti U.S. demonstrations broke out at the beginning of the Iraqi conflict, the focus of the demonstrations was aimed at the war and not Americans overall. The demonstrations lasted approximately 5 days, but there have been no signs since of anti-American sentiment. 65 percent of Djiboutians are ethnic Somalis, and the rest are afar or foreigners.

Domestic political violence is a less significant threat than during the civil war (1990-1996), but rivalry persists between Djibouti's Somali and Afar ethnic groups. Since the may 2001 signing of a peace accord, many former rebels have been integrated into the National Police and Defense Forces.

Demonstrations, often protesting against the Government, nonpayment of salaries, sometimes take place and police occasionally use non-lethal force to disperse unauthorized demonstrators. Civil unrest could also result if the daily air delivery of Khat from neighboring countries were disrupted or delayed for any reason. Visitors are advised to avoid political gatherings and large crowds.

Djibouti lies at the crossroads between the middle east and the horn of Africa and hosts a substantial population of refugees from throughout the region. The governments of Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Russia, China, France, The United States and other nations maintain diplomatic or honorary representation in Djibouti. Djibouti's proximity to a number of conflict-torn states and the governments limited capacity to monitor border controls has raised concerns over the possibility of cross-border terrorist acts.

### 13. (U) Post-specific safety concerns:

Road travel to the north of the country is considered unsafe due to poorly constructed roads and the lack of service or emergency stations.

A significant percentage of Djiboutian males are under the influence of Khat on a daily basis. The drugs effects may escalate what would otherwise be a casual interaction (such as a bumped elbow) into a confrontation.

Djibouti is an Islamic country; visitors should dress conservatively and observe local customs.

14. (U) Police response: The Djiboutian National Police Force is severely under resourced. The police lack transportation, fuel, and communications equipment, which severely affects Police responsiveness. The government is generally 3-6 months in arrears for payment of police salaries. In addition, the Government will be forced to reduce its Police Force by 40% in 2004 in order to meet economic demands.

Visitors requiring police assistance are advised to appear in person at the commissariat of police, located across from the general post office on the Boulevard de la Republique. The central police telephone number is 352-343. Private security guards for residences and facilities are generally hired on an ad-hoc basis. There are few security guard companies, none that are capable of providing patrol response services.

15. (U) Medical emergencies: Local medical facilities do not generally offer standards of care available in western countries, although there are a few French-trained doctors who cater to the expatriate community. Visitors with medical problems are advised to contact the hospital Bouffard (French Military hospital) at 351-351 ext.53015.

Falciparum-type malaria (chloroquine-resistant) is widespread in Djibouti; prophylaxis is advised.

HIV/AIDS is also a serious concern, especially among the urban population; approximately 12 percent of all Djiboutians are infected.

### 16. (U) Tips to avoid being a victim:

a) Street Safety: Visitors to Djibouti should remain vigilant at all times and maintain a high security awareness while on the streets. Additional caution should be exercised around the port, bus terminal, central market (Quartiers 2 and 3) and downtown, especially after dark. Panhandlers and street children target foreigners for petty theft by creating distractions. Visitors should Avoid isolated areas, particularly along the urban coastline.

b) Traffic Safety: road conditions are poor throughout Djibouti. Drivers should beware of potholes, unskilled drivers, and the presence of non-roadworthy vehicles on urban and rural roads. Pedestrians and livestock often appear on roadways without warning. Reports indicate that nomads in rural areas place rocks on the roads to stop vehicles and demand water and/or transportation. The theft of high-value items from stopped vehicles has been reported. Drivers should keep their windows up and doors locked and are especially vigilant at intersections. Unattended vehicles should always be locked, with valuables secured in an inconspicuous location.

Visitors who are involved in traffic accidents should attempt to exchange insurance information with the other party and summon a traffic policeman if one is nearby. It is inadvisable to make restitution at the scene, especially if livestock or pedestrians are involved. Drivers should be weary of crowds gathering at the scene of an accident and should depart immediately if they perceive a threat to their Safety.

c) Hotel Safety: US Government personnel on temporary

assignment to Djibouti are advised to stay in one of four hotels: The Sheraton, The Plen Cielle, The Bellevue and The Europa. Other hotels are considered inadequate. Visitors have reported incidents of robbery and aggressive solicitation by prostitutes. Visitors are advised to lock their doors and admit only expected visitors into hotel rooms.

17. (U) Further information: There is no OSAC country council in Djibouti. American citizens are encouraged to register with the embassy by appearing in person at the Consular section. The embassy is located on Avenue Marechal Joffre at the Plateau du Serpent (near the Sheraton hotel). Business hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Sunday through Thursday. Telephone numbers are (253) 353-995. Americans are welcome to visit the consular section any time during business hours or to telephone the embassy 24 hours a day in case of an emergency.

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16. POC is RSO Marc Ramos at 253-35-39-95 ext 2307.  
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SMITH